

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) and U.S. Patent No. 6,070,211 to Neal et al. (hereinafter "Neal").

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). (Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) ¶ 2143.03).

Applicant's independent claims include limitations not disclosed in Neal. Therefore, applicant's independent claims are patentable over Neal in view of APA.

In particular, applicant's independent claims include the claim limitation, or a limitation similar thereto, of:

a load balancing bus signal buffer to further couple the graphics device to the graphics bus, the load balancing bus signal buffer to provide load balancing on the graphics bus when a second graphics device is installed, the load balancing bus signal buffer is not connected to any internal circuits of the graphics device. (emphasis added.) (Applicant's claim 1.)

The claimed limitation of, a load balancing bus signal buffer to provide load balancing on the graphics bus when a second graphics device is installed, the load balancing bus signal buffer is not connected to any internal circuits of the graphics device, is neither disclosed nor suggested in Neal. As a result, applicant's claims are patentable over Neal.

Furthermore, the remaining claims depend from at least one of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore include the distinguishing limitations of the independent claims. As a result, applicant's remaining claims are also patentable over Neal.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

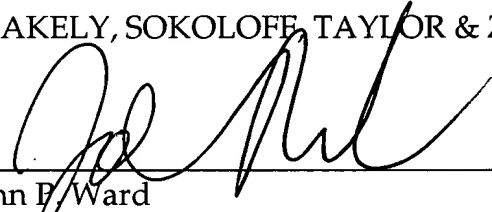
Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: _____

6/1/04



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